

EXHIBIT H

Hidekazu Miyoshi
Yasuo Miyoshi
Sachikuni Iwasaki
Akira Kurihara
Takeo Yokoya
Sumio Kawamata
Masakazu Iro
Shunichi Takahashi
Toshio Takamatsu
Takejumi Shirogahara
Nobuyuki Koiwa
Rie Miyake
Miroko Kanomata
Takashi Sakurai
Shigeru Takabayashi
Kouichiro Takaku
Kenji Yamada
Hajime Kobayashi
Yoshio Murai
Hiromoto Ito
Yoshihito Masuda
Yasutake Nire
Hisamitsu Hano
Ikuro Asakura
Sohbe Suzuki

MIYOSHI & MIYOSHI
PATENT ATTORNEYS
MIYOSHI INTERNATIONAL PATENT OFFICE

Toranomon Daiichi Bldg. 3rd & 9th Fl.
1-2-3 Toranomon
Minato-ku, Tokyo, 105 Japan
Telephone: 03-3504-1777/3304-3073
Facsimile: 03-3597-0086/3595-0387/3595-4883/3595-0564
Telex: 2225303 MIYSPATJ
Cable Address: MIYOSHIPATENT

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Yumi Inagaki	Teruo Yokoo	Yasuhiro Kaneda	Yuji Kijima
Hiichiro Iida	Hisashi Kubota	Tadao Fukuhara	Teruichi Morita
Yoshiaki Fujino	Hisashi Yoneyama	Kazutake Izumi	Tomoki Ishihara
Shigeyoshi Kudo	Makoto Taba	Takashi Tagai	Isamu Tanaka
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Kinji Ezuka
Takashi Sugawara
Masahiro Osaka
Tsunenobu Shionu
Teru Yamamoto
Masahiko Hisano
Tatsuya Shudo

Ph.D. Larry W. Stults
JONES & ASKEW
37th Floor
191 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1769
U.S.A.

January 24, 1996

Re: Japanese Patent Application No. 1-258623
Your Ref.: 20565-6002
Our Ref.: JA-S9502

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JAN 24 1996

JONES & ASKEW

Dear Dr. Stults:

Thank you for your letter of December 27, 1995 in respect to the above identified case.

In reply to your inquiry, we would inform you as follows.

1. Regarding Page 3, Third Paragraph:

Page 3, third paragraph of the English translation cited by the U.S. Examiner corresponds to page 2, left upper column, lines 3-5 of the JP'494 and its translation seems to be correct. We think, however, that the Examiner's interpretation on this portion is not inadequate.

That is to say, on referring to only this portion (page 3, third paragraph) of the English translation, this portion is apt to be misleading that "JP'494 teaches that the action of cellulase removes ink from the fiber, and it would be obvious to the skilled artisan to use cellulase alone, if the deinking action by cellulase alone gives sufficient deinking results, and if the additional expense of adding ink removal chemicals is not desired" as mentioned by the Examiner.

However, on page 2, left upper column, line 8 to right upper column, line 10 of JP'494 following to this portion

continued/...

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(page 3, third paragraph of the English translation), there are descriptions stating that "Cellulase is known as an enzyme for hydrolyzing cellulose. Cellulase is inactivated in an alkali condition of pH8 or more. On the other hand, as a deinking is performed in the alkali condition, conventional cellulase cannot use therefor. However, in case alkali-resistant cellulase is used, it is activatable in the alkali condition. Therefore, if the deinking is performed by using alkali-resistant cellulase with a deinking agent (alkali), the deinking effect is improved due to the action of the enzyme".

Thus, on referring to the reference as a whole, we think that JP'484 discloses only the use of the alkali-resistant cellulase with the conventional deinking agent.

2. Regarding Page 6, First Whole Paragraph:

Page 5, first whole paragraph of English translation cited by the U.S. Examiner corresponds to page 2, left lower column, lines 13-15 of the JP'484 and its translation seems to be correct. We think, however, that the Examiner's interpretation on this portion is not inadequate.

That is to say, referring to only the portion (page 5, first whole paragraph) of the English translation, this portion is apt to be misleading that "Alkali-resistant cellulase can be independently used as one step in the ink removal process" as mentioned by the Examiner.

Please note, however, this portion is directed to explain a process for deinking by adding alkali-resistant cellulase. That is, on page 2, right upper column, line 18 to left lower column, line 18, there are descriptions stating that "an alkali-resistant cellulase treatment is performed by (1) adding alkali-resistant cellulase after the deinking agent (alkali) is applied or by (2) adding alkali-resistant cellulase with the deinking agent". Therefore, this portion is to be interpreted as "the alkali-resistant cellulase treatment" by adding alkali-resistant cellulase in accordance with the above steps (1) and (2) may be independently performed as one step. In other words, this portion is directed to the process according to example 3. In the example 3, the process comprises the steps of adding NaOH, nonionic surfactant and

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alkali-resistant cellulase to waste paper to disaggregate and, then, deinking by adding H_2O_2 and sodium silicate as a further step. Therefore, this portion is not directed to show that alkali-resistant cellulase alone is used in the deinking treatment.

As mentioned above, we think that JP'494 teaches the use of enzyme as an enhancer to be used in addition to conventional deinking agents. Furthermore, we think that enzyme may be added concurrently with conventional deinking agents, or as a further step in addition to conventional deinking agents in the treatment of waste paper.

In this connection, under our practice, the cited reference should be read within the description of the specification, claims and drawings thereof. In other words, the prosecution history should not be considered. Therefore, we did not review the prosecution history of JP'494 at the present stage.

We trust that the above information is sufficient for your needs. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to write us.

We will send you our debit note with a confirmation of this letter by airmail.

Yours very truly.

MIYOSHI & MIYOSHI



Kouichiro Takaku
Patent Attorney

KT/yn

Encl: Debit Note (by airmail)

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